

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 29.6093

ELEMENTS OF QUALITY

§ 29.6081 Elements of quality and degrees of each element.

These standardized words or terms are used to describe tobacco quality and to assist in interpreting grade specifications. Tobacco attributes or

characteristics which constitute quality are designated as elements of quality. The range within each element is expressed by the use of words or terms designated as degrees. These degrees are arranged to show their relative value, but the actual value of each degree varies with type and group.

Elements	Degrees			
Body	Heavy	Medium	Thin.	
Maturity	Immature	Mature	Ripe.	
Leaf structure	Close	Firm	Open.	
Elasticity	Inelastic	Semielastic	Elastic.	
Strength (tensile)	Weak	Normal	Strong.	
Width	Narrowdo	Spready.	
Length	(1)	(1)	(1)	
Uniformity	(2)	(2)	(2)	
Injury tolerance	(2)	(2)	(2)	

¹ Expressed in inches.

² Expressed in percentages.

RULES

§ 29.6086 Rules.

The application of these official standard grades shall be in accordance with the following rules.

§ 29.6087 Rule 1.

Each grade shall be treated as a subdivision of a particular type. When the grade is stated in an inspection certificate, the type also shall be stated.

§ 29.6088 Rule 2.

The determination of grade shall be based upon a representative sample or a thorough examination of a packing of tobacco.

§ 29.6089 Rule 3.

The grade of unsorted tobacco shall be based upon a representative sample of the packing. A minimum of 10 percent of the bundles or bales shall be selected at random for sampling; a higher percentage may be sampled at the discretion of the inspector. To obtain the sample, a sufficient amount of tobacco shall be drawn to be representative of each selected bale. In determining the grade, the inspector shall consider the quality of all samples. The grade assigned shall represent the quality of the lot as a whole.

§ 29.6090 Rule 4.

Standard grades shall be assigned to clean and sound tobacco only.

§ 29.6091 Rule 5.

Tobacco leaves shall be placed straight in bundles or bales of normal weight, size, and shape with the butts out and tips overlapping from 6 to 8 inches or sufficiently to make a level, solid, and uniform pack. The sides of the bundles shall be completely covered with paper, or other suitable protective material, and tightly bound with not less than three large twines spaced so that the tobacco will be held securely together. Improperly packed tobacco shall be designated as "No—G."

§ 29.6092 Rule 6.

The grade assigned to any lot of tobacco shall be a true representation of the tobacco at the time of inspection and certification. If, at any time, it is found that a lot of tobacco does not comply with the specifications of the grade previously assigned, it shall not thereafter be represented as such grade.

§ 29.6093 Rule 7.

Any lot of tobacco which meets the specifications of two grades shall be placed in the higher grade. Any lot of